

Easter 2018: “Peace”

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Because of the overflowing generosity of God we have peace.

Healing the broken and brokenhearted, preaching the good news of God’s in-breaking reign in the world, Jesus embodied God’s peace, in Hebrew, *shalom*. Though typically translated, “peace,” *shalom* carries a much richer meaning. It describes a comprehensive wholeness in our personal and social lives. *Shalom* is justice, a way of living fundamentally shaped by the moral perspective of Leviticus 19: “you must love your neighbor as yourself” and “you must treat the immigrant worker in your midst as you treat a fellow citizen — you must love the immigrant worker among you as you love yourself!” (vv 18, 34). *Shalom* is the ethical core of the daily disciplines of Torah and the prophets’ critiques of economic and political injustice. It is a deeply practical spiritual discipline, a way of life grounded in the transformative presence of God, revealed most clearly in the ongoing struggle to heal the sick, to comfort the brokenhearted, to resist injustice, and to bring abundant life to all. Easter is a celebration of the power of peace to overcome violence, the power of love to overcome hatred, the power of life to overcome death.

The story of the Stone-Campbell tradition out of which Disciples of Christ grew is the story of a people who sometimes fail to embody Christ’s *shalom*, but who often do. Because of the overflowing generosity of God, Disciples of Christ Historical Society can strive to preserve and proclaim the whole story, to tell the hard truths of our past and to celebrate the many inspiring acts of courage and compassion, so that, in the here and now, we might better live lives of peace to build the future of God’s desire, *shalom*.

O God of peace, heal our broken hearts that we may be agents of your healing work in the world. Give us peace overflowing that we might share the peace of Christ for the world. Amen.